

Introduced by Senators Hueso and Wolk

August 27, 2015

Senate Resolution No. 46—Relative to Farmworker Appreciation Day.

1 WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of
2 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the
3 agricultural industry; and

4 WHEREAS, California’s agricultural production helps feed the
5 nation and the rest of the world, and fuels the state’s economy;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Farmworkers in California contribute significantly
8 to our agricultural accomplishments by toiling in fields through
9 harsh and extreme weather conditions, growing, harvesting, and
10 preparing goods for markets and destinations in the United States
11 and abroad; and

12 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California’s population
13 engaging in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker
14 today provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just
15 13 people in 1947; and

16 WHEREAS, For over 50 consecutive years, California has been
17 the number one agricultural state in the nation. California is also
18 currently the number one dairy state in the nation, and produces
19 50 percent of the nation’s supply of fruits, nuts, and vegetables;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Today’s agricultural industry offers over 300
22 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm
23 cultivation to food science and engineering; and

1 WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural
2 exports, shipping more than \$16 billion worth of food and
3 agricultural commodities around the world in 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, California consumers say it is important to them
5 to purchase foods grown in California, and that "California grown"
6 is more important to them today than in previous years. In the last
7 decade, California consumers have increased support of farmers'
8 markets, community-supported agricultural programs, and
9 farm-to-school programs; and

10 WHEREAS, California's agriculture also plays a unique and
11 vital role in the economic strength of the state, providing for nearly
12 one in 10 jobs and more than \$100 billion in production and related
13 economic activity; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2013, California's 77,900 farms and ranches
15 received \$46.4 billion for their output, and more than 26 percent
16 of those farms generated commodity sales over \$100,000, greater
17 than the national average of 19 percent; and

18 WHEREAS, California's farmers also contribute to the creation
19 of products related to manufacturing, health care, printing,
20 education, recreation, transportation, entertainment, construction,
21 and personal care; and

22 WHEREAS, For many farmworkers, the American dream means
23 a life of self-sacrifice, hard work, and perseverance; and

24 WHEREAS, To many Californians, the plight of farmworkers
25 is an issue from the past, a belief perpetuated by the fact that
26 farmworker suffering typically takes place in remote areas far from
27 cities, thereby rendering farmworkers invisible to our society; and

28 WHEREAS, The fruits and vegetables that we enjoy in our daily
29 lives are produced by farmworkers who often endure long hours
30 of backbreaking work and who face challenges such as inadequate
31 enforcement of pesticide, safety, and labor protection laws in the
32 fields; and

33 WHEREAS, Farmworkers dream of providing a better life for
34 their children, but the reality of having to move from crop to crop
35 makes this dream hard to achieve, and economic forces and the
36 rising cost of living have pushed farmworkers further into poverty;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to say "thank
39 you" to our farmers and farmworkers for providing a bounty to
40 our nation and entire world; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
2 hereby declares September 3, 2015, as Farmworker Appreciation
3 Day to honor the men and women of agriculture and to promote
4 an understanding of California’s agricultural industry; and be it
5 further

6 *Resolved*, That the Senate calls upon all Californians to
7 recognize the hard work and self-sacrifice that farmworkers go
8 through to feed all the families in our state; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
10 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.